A COMPARISON OF COST

SHOWING DIFFERENCE IN COST HERE AND ABROAD.

Cost of Building Ships in This Country Double That in England—Some Figures are Given.

St. Louis, Jan. 22.—To show that one of the almost insuperable obstacles to the restoration of the American Merchant marine is the extreme difference in building and operating cost between foreign and American vessels, Welding Ring of New York presented some interesting figures at today's session of the National Foreign Trade convention. He said these figures were furnished by one of the largest American shipowning firms:

One steamer built in England (1912) deadweight capacity 9,650 tons, cost $331,721.11.

"One steamer built in England (1912) deadweight capacity, 9,650 tons, cost $332,437.75.

"One steamer built in Philadelphia (1913) deadweight capacity 9,250 tons, cost $680,371.39.

"One steamer built in Philadelphia (1913) readweight capacity 9,250 tons cost $680,501.95.

"These steamers are of practically similar character," said Mr. Ring, "intended for the same trade and it will be noted that the dreadweight capacity of the English steamers is 400 tons greater than that of the American, while the cost of the American is more than double that of the English. These may possibly be extreme differences in cost, but they are actual, and other owners have experienced the same conditions. These same owners recently transferred one of their British steamers to the United States flag, with the following results:

"Wages under the United States flag increased $402.50 per month.

Additional cost for extra inspection $50 per month.

Additional cost for food and supplies $50 per month.

To the speaker there appeared but one practical remedy. "Change our navigation laws," he said, "and permit us to buy where we buy cheapest and operate in competition with other nations."

Mr. Ring opposed the bill now before congress to authorize the purchase of foreign steamers and the placing of such vessels under the American flag on the ground that if the government entered the shipping trade in competition with private capital, it would have to invest very many millions, the result would be unfair competition with those now in the shipping trade and such government participation would prevent investment of private capital in such trade as no individual could compete successfully with the government.

TRIBULATIONB OF A POSTMASTER

People Seem to Think He is Broker in Farm Produce

Atlanta, Ga., Jan 22.—The truth of the old proverb that false news travels fast was never more plainly shown than in the present tribulations of Postmaster Bolling Jones of Atlanta, who has suddenly found himself, against his will, taken for a general broker in farm produce.

In some way the story went round that Postmaster Jones was so anxious to drum up business for Uncle Sam's postoffice department that he would find a ready market for anything in the way of farm produce that could come by parcel post, from a queen bee to a kettle of soft soap. And ever since he has been besieged by offers of merchandise.

One man wrote that he was ready to supply fifty pounds of butter a day, another that he was shipping ten dozen fresh eggs on consignment and another that he was preparing to forward ten gallons of milk daily as soon as he could find a can that would stand the wear and tear of the mails.

Now the postmaster has posted a sign to say he isn't in the produce business.

NOW IS TIME TO ENLIST

Irish Corporal Picked up Two Diamonds on Sentry Post.

London, Jan. 22. — How an Irish corporal picked up two diamonds from the drifting sands of his sentry post in German Southwest Africa, is told in a letter which has just reached his family here.

"My present post is in a desert of sand dunes," he writes. "A mirage shimmers continually on the horizon. The sand, blown by the wind, fills the eyes and throat and bites into the skin.

"It is our duty to keep the railroad open. That means very little soldiering, but a great deal of shovveling; all day long the native shovelers push aside the drifting sand, which would soon hide the rails if left to its own devices.

"Today, while I stood idly watching a group of complaining shovelers, my eye caught an unusual flash, and I stooped and picked up a diamond, the size of a bean. I searched a little longer and found another, a bit smaller. There were no more."

News from Abroad.

The Belgian capital has been officially renamed "Bruessel' by the Germans. They have also imposed German time on the city.

If the land of England and Wales were equally divided among the residents there would be a little more than one acre for each person.

Greenock (Scotlond corporations have decided to proceed with the erection of workmen's dwellings at a capital expenditure of about $200,000.

Paris, Jan. 22. — The Berne correspondent of the Temps says that Swiss agents in Italy have obtained Italy's promise no longer to hold up copper and cereals destined for Switzerland at Genoa. It was England's persuasion that won over Italy's consent.

MRS. JOHN WOOD'S "DIXIE"

Was She the Introducer of This Song to America?

New York Sun.

Mrs. John Wood, the English actress who died on Tuesday, is identified with United States history in an interesting way. She introduced the song of "Dixie" on the stage of this country, according to Government records. It was interpolated in John Brougham's popular burlesque "Pocahontas," in which she was playing in New Orleans in 1860. The authorship of the song has been attributed to Dan Emmet, the minstrel, but there has been so much controversy over it that every fact connected with it possesses interest. In the book of "Our Familiar Songs and Those Who Made Them," a very admirable collection published by Henry Holt and Company in 1881, prepared by Helen Kendrick Bangs, it is said:

The original song of "Dixie" was the composition of Dan D. Emmet of Bryant's Minstrels and was first sung in New York in 1860. The first words used for the song in the south were from a poem entitled "The Star of the West," published in the Charleston Mercury early in 1861.

Mark well the dates. Now in a collection of old sheet music bound into books as gathered and kept in our family from 1852 to 1875 I find an original copy of "Dixie" with this title page:

I Wish I Was in Dixie
Words by
J. Newcomb
Music by
J. C. Viereck.
Sung by Mrs. John Wood.
New Orleans, Published by P. P. Werlein
51 Camp Street
Entered according to Act of Congress in the year 1860
by P. P. Werlein, in the Clerk's Off: of the Dist: Court of the East: Dist: of La.

The words in this edition, which is earlier than any other that has been produced as far as I know, are the well known verses beginning: "I wish I was in the land of cotton," &c. The old song speaks for itself in the old books.

Perhaps this still well preserved and interesting first edition, now fifty-four years old, may be a link in the controversy over the most inspiring and characteristic American "national" tune we have.

Some of your readers may throw additional light on the early records.

Y. E. A.

Louisville, Ky., January 17.

Or Pretends to.

Boston Transcript.

Mrs. Exe—Is your husband still troubled with insomnia?

Mrs. Wye—Not so much. Whenever I hear him tossing around night I tell him I think I hear a burglar downstars and he immediately dozes off.

Some Improvement.

Richmond Times-Dispatch.

"How is young John getting on at college?" asked the friend of the family.

"Very well, indeed," answered John's proud mother. "The president has about decided to let him stay on for the rest of the term."

FOR PERMANENT PASTURES

GOVERNMENT ISSUES AN INTERESTING BULLETIN.

Tells Farmers How to Prepare Permanent Pastures in States of the Cotton Belt.

"Permanent pastures for the cotton belt," is the subject discussed in a bulletin just received off the presses of the United States department of agriculture at Washington. The bulletin is of interest in this section because of the determination of many of the farmers hereabouts to raise more live stock in the future.

The bulletin says:

Introduction.

Permanent pastures are a necessity in the cotton states. Even with the present acreage devoted to cotton and other tilled crops, there is plenty of idle land that if turned into pastures would yield a good additional income without increasing the farmer's labor bills to any appreciable extent. In changing from cotton growing to live-stock raising, as many are now doing, the need of permanent pastures becomes imperative.

Lands Suitable for Pastures.

The more fertile the land the better the pasture; but for economic reasons the rough fields and gullied hillsides should be the first to be used for grass. The increasing prices of meats and of farm labor will often make the fertile fields more profitable in pasture than in tilled crops. The convenience of water for the stock should not be overlooked in choosing a field for a pasture.

Preparation of the Land.

The success of a permanent pasture depends primarily on the fertility of the land at the start. On good soil with the proper system of grazing, a pasture will increase in production for many years. It is a slow process, however, to build up poor soils by pasturing alone. It is better to put the land in good tilth at the start in order to maintain the stand of the more nutritious grasses and clovers.

If the soil is deficient in organic matter, some green-manure crop, such as cowpeas or rye, should be plowed under before seeding the grass. Stable manure would accomplish the same purpose, but this is not often available. Experience has shown that phosphorus is the one element that is most likely to be profitable in pastures; so, if commercial fertilizers are used, those carrying a high percentage of this element are most desirable. Acid phosphate and basic slag are the most economical and satisfactory materials to use.

Kinds of Grasses for Pastures.

The Southern states are fortunate in having a number of first-class pasture plants suitable for their conditions. With a proper selection of these plants it is possible to have good pastures throughout the entire year.

In seeding, it is best to use a mixture of several grasses and clovers, as no one kind will meet all requirements. Of the many pasture plants available, the best ones under general conditions are Bermuda grass, lespedeza, bur clover and white clover. Redtop, orchard grass, carpet grass, Italian rye-grass, and the vetches should be added to this list for the special conditions mentioned later.

Bermuda Grass.

Bermuda grass is unquestionably the best summer pasture grass known in the south. It occupies the same relative position in that section that bluegrass does in the north. It should be made the basis for pasture mixtures on all soils except the very light sands. Bermuda grass does best on rich loams along creeks, sometimes growing large enough to make 4 tons of hay to the acre. The yield is not so high on uplands, but it is sufficient to justify its use for grazing purposes on all the loams and the heavier types of soils. It is permanent in its existence on fertile soils, endures long periods of drought without much injury, is benefitted rather than injured by the grazing and trampling of stock, and furnishes as nutritious a feed as most other grasses. No other plant has been found that is more suitable for gullied hillsides, to prevent washing and to cover up the scars of erosion.

It flourishes in sunshine, but will not endure much shade. For this reason it should not be used in woodland pasture. Its dislike of shade has suggested a successful method for its eradication from tilled fields. A crop of oats and vetch seeded in the fall, followed by a crop of cowpeas the following summer, will usually exterminate the grass if the field is desired for a cultivated crop.

How to Set Bermuda Grass.

Lands may be set with Bermuca grass either by seed or by planting small pieces of sod. Formerly the seed of this grass was so scarce and so low in vitality that the sod-transfer method was the one most commonly practiced. In recent years it has been found that Bermuda grass seeds freely in some of the southwestern states, especially in Arizona. This western-grown seed is of a much better quality than that formerly on the market, and with it seeding is practicable.

The seed is best sown on a well-prepared seed bed in March or April. Five pounds of seed to the acre is sufficient, as the seed is very small, and, besides, the grass spreads rapidly over the ground by means of its aggressive root-stocks. In order to facilitate the equal distribution of such a small quantity of fine seed, it may be mixed with cottonseed meal or dry earth to increase the bulk or, better, mixed with some other seeds of pasture plants, as directed later. The seed may be covered with a roller or light smoothing harrow.

It is usually an easy matter in the south to find in any locality a well-established Bermuda grass sod, and when desirable this can be used for propagating the grass instead of using the seed. The field should be prepared the same as for sowing the seed, but many good stands have been obtained with very little preparation of the seed bed. A common method of planting is to lay off furrows about 3 feet apart and drop small pieces of sod every 2 or 3 feet in the furrow and cover with the foot. The sod for planting may be obtained by cutting a shallow furrow with a turning plow and then chopping this up with a sharp spade into pieces about 2 inches square. The planting of sod may be done at any time during the summer, but preferably during periods of wet weather. If the planting is done in the spring, the grass will usually spread and cover the entire ground the first season.

Lespedeza, or Japan Clover.

Lespedeza is one of the few annual plants that are suitable for pastures. It seeds near the ground and unless extremely close grazing is practiced is self-perpetuating. It often grows on land so low in fertility that nothing else will survive, but it succeeds best on rich, fertile loams in the lower Mississippi Valley, where it sometimes grows to a height of 3 feet or more and makes a very satisfactory crop of hay. Lespedeza belongs to the legume family of plants and enriches the soil with nitrogen. For this reason alone it is always desirable to mix this with Bermuda grass for pastures. It is slow in starting growth in the spring, but makes its best growth in midsummer and is not checked until heavy frosts come in the fall.

Lespedeza may be seeded at any time after danger from frosts is past in early spring. Twenty-five pounds of pure, well-cleaned seed to the acre is considered a full seeding. Smaller quantities than this will often be sufficient for a pasture, as it spreads rapidly when once started in a suitable soil. It is a splendid plant to grow with Bermuda grass, and should always be included with it for a permanent pasture.

Another method of getting a stand of Lespedeza is to cut some of the ripened hay and scatter it over the ground to be seeded. This is often practiced where the land is too rough to be broken with a plow.

Bur Clover and White Clover.

It is always desirable to seed with Bermuda grass and Lespedeza something that will furnish winter grazing. The two plants best suited for that purpose are bur clover and white or Dutch clover. These take possession of the land during the winter and furnish excellent grazing until hot weather comes, when they give way to the Bermuda grass. Bur clover is an annual, but reseeds itself readily. White clover is perennial and propagates itself both by seed and by creeping rootstocks.

Bur clover should be seeded in late summer or fall at the rate of 15 pounds of hulled seed or 2 bushels of the burs to the acre. White clover is best seeded at the same time, using 4 or 5 pounds to the acre.

Speical Purpose Grasses.

While the Bermuda grass, Lespedeza, bur clover, and white clover mixture is undoubtedly the best combination that can be sown for pastures over the greater part of the cotton-growing region, there are a few other grasses that will be beter to plant under certain conditions.

Carpet Grass.

On the sandy soils along the gulf coast, carpet grass has demonstrated its ability not only to hold its own but to crowd out most other grasses, including Bermuda grass. It has a creeping habit of growth, taking root at every joint, which makes it a pasture grass. Close grazing by stock is essential to maintain a good sod. If stock be kept off it for an entire season it will greatly deteriorate. It seldom makes sufficient growth to justify its being mown for hay, and unless grown with other grasses is not satisfactory for pasture purposes.

Carpet grass may be planted by the same methods used for propagating Bermuda grass. It is doubtful whether it is ever advisable to plant this grass, as it comes in itself throughout the entire region to which it is adapted. If the land is seeded to the Bermuda-Lespedeza mixture already mentioned, it will furnish more grazing for two or three years than if seeded to carpet grass. By that time the carpet grass will have established itself. The problem then is to add something to the carpet grass to increase its grazing capacity. This can be done by occasionally harrowing the sod in the fall and sowing Italian rye-grass seed. Bermuda-grass seed might be added in the same manner in the spring, or pieces of Bermuda sod might be dropped in shallow furrows in the carpet-grass sod. The Bermuda grass will increase the summer pasturing, while the Italian rye-grass will make a greater growth during the cooler weather.

Italian Rye-Grass.

Italian rye-grass is the best temporary winter pasture grass for the south. Its chief merit lies in its ability to produce a luxuriant growth of nutritious grass quickly after seeding. Usually it does not last more than two or three years, and for practical purposes it must be considered an annual. In pastures it serves the purpose of furnishing abundant grazing during the winter months and while the other grasses are becoming established. It grows well where Bermuda grass flourishes, and is recommended to be used wherever Bermuda-grass planting is done, whether by the seed or sod method. The seed of Italian rye-grass is of strong germination, and 30 pounds to the acre is sufficient for a full stand, while 15 pounds is probably sufficient for sowing in mixtures or to replenish a thin sod on an old pasture. Seeding is best done in the fall.

Redtop.

Redtop is a widely known pasture and hay grass. It is not a heavy-producing grass; neither is the hay of especially good quality. When kept closely grazed, stock eat it readily. Its ability to grow on soils that are wet or poor in lime makes it worthy of consideration. It grows freely in combination with other grasses and adds to the bulk of herbage produced without crowding out the plants with which it is associated. It seeds freely and spreads by root stocks, making a fine even turf if seeded alone. Its greatest use in the south is on creek bottoms that are too wet to produce Bermuda grass. It adds materially to the ampunt of pasturage except in midsummer when it languishes.

It is best propagated from seed, using 6 to 8 pounds to the acre. Seeding is best done in the fall. The directions given for seeding Bermuda grass apply equally well to seeding redtop.

Orchard Grass.

Orchard garss is a coarse-growing, bunchy grass that furnishes good grazing in early spring and late fall. Its growth is checked during hot weather. It will endure considerable rough treatment without injury and should be kept closely grazed for the best results. No other grass will stand more shade, and it is the one most often recommended for woodland pastures. It never does well on light sandy soils. On wet lands and heavy clays it is an excellent grass to mix with redtop. From 20 to 30 pounds of seed to the acre will give a full stand. Half as much will be sufficient for pasture mixtures. It should be seeded in the fall. It is one of the best grasses to sow in gullies, to prevent further erosion.

Hairy Vetch.

The persistent character of hairy vetch in the soils of many of the southern states makes it worthy of consideration as a pasture plant. When seeded early in the fall with oats it will furnish good grazing during the winter and early spring and afterwards produce a good crop of hay. The few cases in which it has been tried in permanent pastures have been sufficiently successful to encourage further trials.